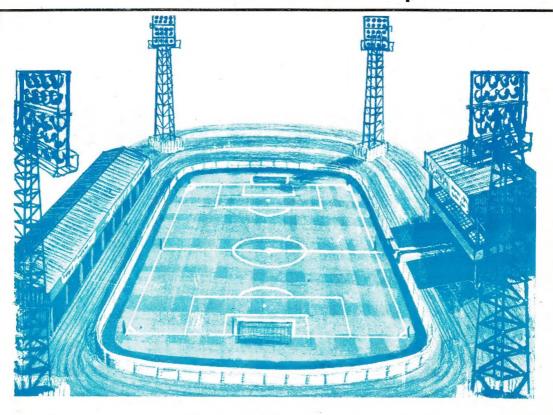
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FOOTBALL LEAGUE - DIVISION IV

ROCHDALE

Wednesday, 13th September, 1978

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

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Manager:

I McNEILL

Secretary:

D. WELSBY

Hon. Medical Officer: Dr. G. MENON

OUR VISITORS

ROCHDALE, our nearest rivals in Division 4, are welcomed to Springfield Park tonight in what should be an interesting "derby" game.

Rochdale were formed in 1907 and entered the Manchester League; then it was accepted into the second division of the Lancashire Combination in 1908, but the type of entertainment gained very little support, so in 1909-10 the Directors set out to improve the standard of the team. The move paid, promotion was gained to Div. 1 of the Lancashire Combination and they won the Lancashire Junior Cup. Soon the club won the Combination Championship, entered the FA Cup Competition, and in 1912 gained entrance to the Central League, where considerable success was achieved.

Similar to ourselves Rochdale made many unsuccessful applications for Football League status. During the war years 1914-1918 Rochdale played with the premier clubs so well that it was a great disappointment when they were not elected in 1919.

The result was that Rochdale helped to start the movement for the formation of a Third Division Northern section, and they were included in the original 20 clubs to form the section in 1921. The clubs forming that Northern Section were Stockport, Grimsby, Darlington, Hartlepools, Accrington, Stalybridge, Crewe, Walsall, Southport, Ashington, Durham City, Wrexham, Chesterfield, Lincoln, Barrow, Nelson, Wigan Borough, Tranmere, Halifax and Rochdale.

Their ground at Willbuts Lane, Spotland, has a capacity of 25,000. Their best home gate was 24,231—against Notts County in a cup-tie.

Amongst notable players they have provided are Tom Mort (Aston Villa) and the well-known J. R. Smith (Bolton Wanderers).

Their longest serving manager was Ted Goodier who spent 12 years at Rochdale before coming to Wigan in 1953. Our own Dunc Colquhoun was trainer at Rochdale with Ted Goodier after the last war, but followed his 'boss' to Wigan, and they teamed up to provide one of our greatest achievements—a 2-2 draw at Newcastle in 1954.

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A word from the Manager

GOOD EVENING ALL.

Saturdays defeat at the hands of Wimbledon left an extremely bitter taste in all who witnessed the game, as we had played so well and yet came away with nothing. At no time during the game did we look an inferior side, and if the match was a yardstick to the future, then given a bit of time, we should acquit ourselves quite well.

Tonights match with Rochdale is an extremely important one for both clubs as neither has had a League victory so far. Obviously tension will be high but we are hoping for a confidence-boosting performance.

NEW SIGNING

The signing of DEREK BROWNBILL has added to our striking force—unfortunately his clearance didn't come through in time for the Wimbledon game, but it gave me the opportunity to play Alan Crompton in a striking role and he had a fine game.

PETER HOUGHTON

Bad news is the fact that Peter Houghton has had a bad break, and it may be some time before we can get him into action—the sconer the better—for Peter had settled to League football really well and was causing plenty of problems to opposing defences. I trust he is back scon.

Enjoy tonight's match.

IAN McNEILL.

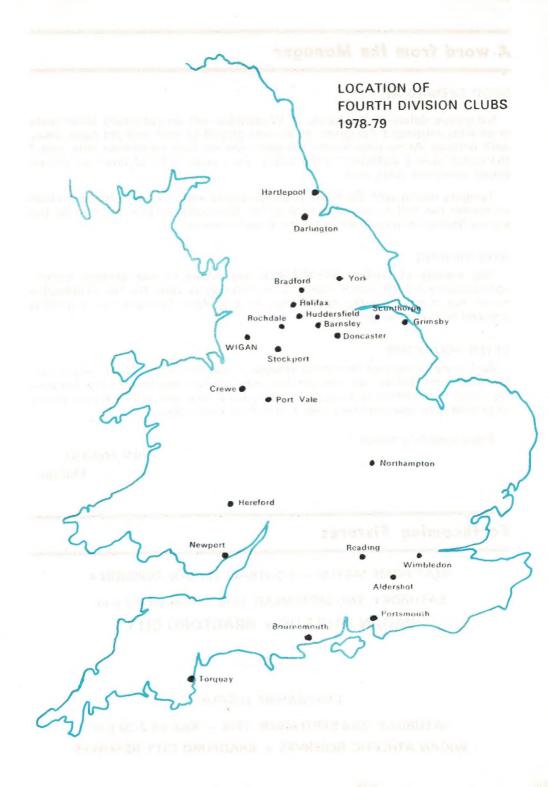
Manager.

Forthcoming Fixtures

NEXT HOME MATCH — FOOTBALL LEAGUE DIVISION 4
SATURDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.
WIGAN ATHLETIC v. BRADFORD CITY

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

SATURDAY, 23rd SEPTEMBER, 1978 — Kick-off 2-30 p.m. WIGAN ATHLETIC RESERVES v. BRADFORD CITY RESERVES



Pen Pictures of Rochdale A.F.C.

- PHIL ASHWORTH. 25 year old striker, born at Burnley. Prior to signing for Rochdale in July 1978 he played for Blackburn, Bournemouth, Workington and Stockport. Weight 12st. 3lbs. Height 6ft.
- IAN BANNON. 18 year old centre back, born Bury. He has had Youth International Trials with us. Associated schoolboy, then apprentice. Signed professional forms in September 1977. Prior to this season he had 68 Fourth Division appearances. Weight 12st, 10lbs. Height 6ft.
- DAVID ESSER. 21 year old striker, born at Bowden. Everton was his only previous club prior to signing for Rochdale in July 1977. Weight 10st. 4lbs. Height 5ft. 5ins.
- PAUL HALLOWS, 26 year old full back, born Chester. Signed for Rochdale in 1974 from Bolton Wanderers and he is the longest serving player at the club. He also played for Wrexham and Bolton. Weight 11st. 4lbs. Height 5ft, 8ins.
- BRIAN HART. 19 year old centre back, born at Bolton. Played amateur with Rochdale, signed professional forms Easter 1978. He previously played for Bolton Wanderers. Weight 11st, 5lbs. Height 6ft.
- TONY MORRIN. 30 year old midfield player, from Swinton, Manchester. Previous clubs have been Burnley, Bury, Stockport and Exeter. Signed for Rochdale August, 1977. Weight 11st, 7lbs. Height 5ft. 8ins.
- NIGEL O'LOUGHLIN. 24 year old midfield player, born at Denbeigh, Former Welsh schoolboy international. Signed from Shrewsbury Town in 1976. Weight 11st. 2lbs. Height 5ft. 8ins.
- TED OLIVER. 17 year old full back, from Manchester. Signed apprentice forms in June 1977. Weight 9st. 1lb. Height 5ft. 6ins.
- TERRY OWEN. 28 year old striker, from Liverpool. Prior to signing for Rochdale in September 1977 his previous clubs were Everton, Bradford City, Chester and Cambridge. Weight 11st. Height 5ft. 8ins.
- JOHN PRICE. 18 year old midfield player, from Middlewich. Signed professional forms in January 1978. Weight 11st. 3lbs. Height 5ft. 9ins.
- BOB SCAIFE. 22 year old midfield player, from Whitby. Before signing for Rochdale in October 1977 his previous clubs were Middlesborough and Hartlepool. Weight 12st, 8lbs. Height 6ft.
- BOB SCOTT. 25 year old centre back, born Liverpool. Joined Wrexham on leaving school after which he went to Hartlepool. Signed for Rochdale July 1977. Weight 13st. 10lbs. Height 6ft. 3ins.
- STEVE SHAW. 17 year old striker, from Middleton. Signed apprentice forms in July 1977. Weight 9st, 12lbs. Height 5ft. 6ins.
- CHRIS SHYNE. 27 year old goalkeeper, born Rochdale. Signed professional forms in January 1976. Weight 12st. 3lbs. Height 5ft. 10ins.
- ANDY SLACK 19 year old goalkeeper, from Heywood. Signed professional forms in January 1978. Previously played for Bolton. Weight 11st. 10lbs. Height 5ft. 10½ ins.
- ERIC SNOOKES. 23 year old left back, from Birmingham. Signed for Rochdale in July 1978. Weight 11st. 7lbs. Height 5ft. 10ins.
- NICK STANLEY. 16 year old midfield player, from Bolton. Signed apprentice forms with Rochdale in June 1978. Weight 9st. 12lbs. Height 5ft 7ins.

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LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



As Latics look for the way out of the Division 4 basement it may be worth noting the observations of Len Ashurst, made after watching his Newport County side win the battle of the early stragglers, at Springfield Park.

After spells in the hot seat at Hartlepool, Gillingham and Sheffield Wednesday, Mr. Ashurst knows all about ups and downs of life in the lower divisions and his message to Latics was simple and to the point.

"When results go against you, above all keep your head. Don't start running about like a headless chicken. Keep your sense of perspective and avoid panic at all costs.

"From what I've seen, Wigan need time to find their feet, but there's no reason to think they will be at rock bottom come April.

"Newport have had a bad start too, and before we came here we hadn't so much as one point, but I wasn't thinking we were going to be everyone's whipping boys for the rest of the season."

The Newport manager added, "It is a time for stout hearts at Wigan as indeed it is at Newport, and at times like this a club finds out who its friends really are."

So Mr. Ashurst makes it clear. Latics may have lost a few battles, but not the whole war and although fans hopes of promotion at the first attempt may have been a shade optimistic on hindsight, there is no reason yet to think Latics are in for a bad season.

Manager Ian McNeill is working hard to strengthen his squad, but with a limited budget for new signings at his disposal, the search for new blood of the type suited to Latics is all the more difficult.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It may be interesting to look back and see how the greatest league in the world—The Football League—was formed.

The League was founded in 1888 at the suggestion of a Scotsman, William McGregor, who had settled in the Midlands and became an influential official of Aston Villa. Professionalism had just become legalised and, sensing the need to control and consolidate the games increasing popularity he issued the following circular.

"Every year it is becoming more and more difficult for football clubs of any standing to meet their friendly

engagements and even arrange friendly matches. I beg to tender the following suggestion as a means of getting over the difficulty: that ten or twelve of the most prominent clubs in England combine to arrange home and away fixtures each season. I would take it as a favour if you would think the matter over and make whatever suggestions you may deem necessary."

This circular was sent to Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Preston

North End, West Bromwich Albion and Aston Villa.

The outcome was a conference on the eve of the Cup Final of 1888. Here the plan was approved and the League was formed by the following twelve clubs: Accrington, Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers, Bolton Wanderers, Burnley, Derby County, Everton, Notts County, Preston N.E., Stoke, West Brom and Wolverhampton Wanderers.

Once launched, the Football League went ahead with increasing strides. Firm fixture lists, punctual starts and local rivalry assured the success of the venture, especially when points (2 for a win, 1 for a draw) and promotion

and relegation arrived.

Thus the 12 originals admitted two new members in 1891, and 14 became 28 a year later, when the 2nd Division arrived. Thereafter the membership mounted this way: 1893—31; 1894—32; 1898—36, until the present day figure of 92. When the League was formed with 12 members William McGregor had ambitions to increase, but probably never dreamed it would ever become 92 clubs.

Wigan Athletic is certainly proud to be now one of the 92 clubs forming what must be the finest League in the world.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4
WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER, 1978. Kick-off 7-30 p.m.

Line-up

	GAN ATHLETIC Blue and White stripes)		ROCHDALE
1	JOHN BROWN	1	CHRIS SHYNE
2	KEVIN SMART	2	PAUL HOLLOWS
3	JOE HINNIGAN	3	ERIC SNOOKES
4	TOMMY GORE	4	BRIAN HART
5	NOEL WARD	5	BOB SCOTT
6	IAN GILLIBRAND	6	BOB SCAIFE
7	FRANK CORRIGAN	7	TERRY OWEN
8	JEFF WRIGHT	8	BOBBY HOY
9	MICKEY MOORE	9	PHIL ASHWORTH
10	ALAN CROMPTON	10	DAVID ESSER
11	IAN PURDIE	11	NIGEL O'LOUGHLIN
12	DEREK BROWNBILL	12	PHIL MULLINGTON

Referee: Mr. M. LOWE (Sheffield)

Linesmen: Mr. J. Smith (West Derby) Red Flag

Mr. P. H. Waters (Cleveleys) Yellow Flag

OPINION

by Harold Ashurst

Ian McNeill's search for players, though not unexpected in view of the team's disappointing start to the season, shouldn't be looked on as the cure for all ills.



For a start it is unlikely, in view of current prices in the transfer market, that Wigan will be able to buy their way out of trouble, and Tottenham, to name just one club, have shown that money isn't always the answer anyway.

Certainly there is a need for a midfield general, not only to win the ball, but to slow down play and bring the front runners into the game with more than just a high, hopeful pass floated in their direction.

The signing of Derek Brownbill, allied to that of Mickey Moore, and the return from injury of Peter Houghton might give the team's finishing a surer touch.

But what would help too is a more professional approach from the team. Athletic have still to accept, in my opinion, that League football is generally rougher, tougher and faster than your normal NPL game. There is less room for mistakes, either in defence or attack, for these will certainly be punished, as Wigan have found to their cost. And at this level, as much as any, work-rate is all important.

So the team could speed their own recovery by waking up to the facts of Division Four life.

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LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978	1979
August— F-A	January— F-A
18-Blackpool 'A'H 2-1	1-Oldham Ath. ResH(Mn.)
25—Southport ResH 1-1	6-Morecambe ResH
	13-Port Vale ResA
September—	20-Manchester City 'A'H
2-Everton 'A'	27-Macclesfield T. ResA
9—Chester 'A'H 1-3	
15-Tranmere R. ResA (Fri.)	February
16—	3—Bradford City ResA
23—Bradford City ResH	10—Crewe Alex ResH
30-Liverpool 'A'A	17—Manchester Utd. 'A'A
	24—Oldham Ath. ResA
October—	
7-Rochdale ResH	March—
14—Rochdale ResA	3—Carlisle Res.
21—Carlisle Utd. ResH	10—Stockport County 'A'H
27-Stockport County 'A' A (Fri.)	17—Bolton Wanderers 'B'
	24—Bolton Wanderers 'B'H
November—	31—Wrexham ResA
11—Tranmere R. ResH	
18—Crewe Alex 'A'A	April—
25Manchester City 'A'A	7Manchester Utd. 'A'H
	13—Southport Res A (Fri.)
December—	15-Wrexham ResH
2—Blackpool 'A'A	16—
9—Port Vale ResH	21—Liverpool 'A' H
16—Chester 'A'A	28—
23—Macclesfield T. Res H	May —
26	
30Morecambe Res A	5Everton 'A' H

Today's Referee

LOWE, MICHAEL (Sheffield). Commenced refereeing in Sheffield Iccal leagues in 1958, then through the Central League to the Football League full list in 1972. Was linesman at the 1971 F.A. Amateur Cup Final, also a European Cup match in Sweden in 1972. A married man, with three children, he is a newsagent and plays tennis during the summer. Enjoys training and mixing with professional players and feels this liaison has mutual advantages. He carries cut work for his local Referees Association.



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